

CONGRESS HEARS "ADDRESS FROM THE THRONE"

PRESIDENT WILSON'S MESSAGE

National Preparedness Main Theme of Head of Nation. Submits Definite Plan to Increase Present Standing Force of Regulars and For Four Hundred Thousand Citizen Soldiers Raised In Increments of One Hundred and Thirty-three Thousand.



Photo by Associated Press Association.
PRESIDENT WILSON'S LATEST PICTURE.
(From snapshot taken on Nov. 26.)

FOLLOWING is the message of President Wilson delivered at a joint session of the senate and house at the beginning of the Sixty-fourth congress:

Gentlemen of the Congress—Since I last had the privilege of addressing you on the state of the Union the war of nations on the other side of the sea, which had then only begun to disclose its portentous proportions, has extended its threatening and sinister scope until it has swept within its flame some portion of every quarter of the globe, not excepting our own hemisphere, has altered the whole face of international affairs, and now presents a prospect of reorganization and reconstruction such as statesmen and peoples have never been called upon to attempt before.

The president tells how this country practiced neutrality and declares that he hopes that when the time comes for readjustment and recuperation this country will be of infinite service. Referring to Central and South American problems, the president desires that we should retain undimmed the spirit which has inspired us throughout the whole life of our government and which was so frankly put into words by President Monroe.

We have been put to the test in the case of Mexico, and we have stood the test. Whether we have benefited Mexico by the course we have pursued remains to be seen. Her fortunes are in her own hands. But we have at least proved that we will not take advantage of her in her distress and undertake to impose upon her an order and government of our own choosing. Liberty is often a fierce and intratable thing, to which no bounds can be set and to which no bounds of a few months' duration could ever be set to be set. Every American who has drunk at the true fountain of principle and tradition must subscribe without reservation to the high doctrine of the Virginian bill of rights, which in the good days in which our government was set up was everywhere among us accepted as the creed of free men. That doctrine is, "That government is or ought to be instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community; that 'till all the various modes and forms of government, that is the best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety, and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration, and that when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community hath an indubitable, inalienable and indefensible right to reform, alter or abolish it in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public welfare." We have unhesitatingly applied that heroic principle in the case of Mexico and now hopefully await the result of the troubled republic which had so much of which to purge itself and so little sympathy from any outside quarter in the world but necessary friends. We will aid and befriend Mexico, but we will not coerce her, and our course with regard to her ought to be sufficient proof to all America that we seek no political superiority or selfish control.

PAN-AMERICANISM HAS NONE OF EMPIRE'S SPIRIT.

Economic Adjustments Inevitable Within the Next Generation.

The moral is that the states of America are not hostile rivals, but coexisting friends, and that their growing sense of community of interest, also in matters political and in matters economic, is likely to give them a new significance as factors in international affairs and in the political history of the world. It presents them as in a very deep and true sense a unit in world affairs, spiritual partners standing together because thinking together, quick with common sympathies and common ideals. Separated, they are subject to all the cross currents of the confused politics of a world of hostile realities; united in spirit and purpose, they cannot be disappointed of their peaceful destiny.

This is pan-Americanism. It is the embodiment of the effective embodiment, or the spirit of law and independence and liberty and mutual service.

The president calls attention to the meeting in Washington recently of representatives of the pan-American republics and says that economic adjustment is inevitable in the next generation.

No one who really comprehends the spirit of the great people for whom we are appointed to speak can fail to perceive that their position is far more than those last displayed in the practice of the art of peace. Great democratic forces are not indifferent. They do not seek or desire war. Their thought is

MESSAGE

Declares That if Full Navy Program Is Carried Out We Will Have a Fleet For Defense That Will Be "Fitted to Our Needs and Worthy of Our Traditions." Greatest Danger to Country Comes From Within Our Borders.

are the additions necessary to render the army adequate for its present duties, duties which it has to perform not only upon our own continental coasts and borders and at our interior army posts, but also in the Philippines, in the Hawaiian Islands, at the isthmus and in Porto Rico.

By way of making the country ready to assert some part of its real power promptly and upon a larger scale should occasion arise the plan also contemplates supplementing the army by a force of 400,000 disciplined citizens, raised in increments of 100,000 a year throughout a period of three years. This is proposed to do by a process of enlistment under which the serviceable men of the country would be asked to bind themselves to serve with the colors for purposes of training for short periods throughout these years and to come to the colors at call, at any time throughout an additional "turning" period of three years. This force of 400,000 men would be provided with necessary accoutrements as far as enlisted and their equipment for the field made ready to be supplied at any time. This would be necessary for training at stated intervals at convenient places in association with suitable units of the regular army. This period of short training would not necessarily exceed two months in the year.

The president says it is up to the patriotic young men of the country to respond to this call.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GREATER NAVY.

Always Looked to It as Our First and Chief Line of Defense.

The program which will be laid before you by the secretary of the navy is similarly conceived. It involves only a shortening of the time within which plans long matured shall be carried out, but it does make definite and explicit a program which has heretofore been only implicit, held in the minds of the committees on naval affairs and disclosed in the debates of the two houses, but neither formulated or formally adopted. It seems to me very clear that it will be in the advantage of the country for the congress to adopt a comprehensive plan for putting the navy upon a firm footing of strength and efficiency and to press that plan to completion within the next five years. We have always looked to the navy as the cornerstone of our defense; we have always seen it to be our manifest course of prudence to be strong on the seas. Year by year we have been creating a navy which now ranks very high indeed among the navies of the maritime nations. We should now definitely determine how we shall complete what we have begun and how soon.

SUGGESTS BROAD PLAN FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Increase Standing Regular Force—Four Hundred Thousand Citizen Soldiers.

But ours has never been a mere matter of men and arms. It is a question of discipline and morale. If our citizens are ever to fight effectively upon a seacoast, seaport, they must know how modern fighting is done, and when the war comes, immediately avail themselves of every opportunity which offers. We feel it when ever there is a people first tries to walk in these difficult paths of independence and right. From the first we have made common cause with all portions of society on this side the sea and have decided it is important that our neighbors should be free from outside influence as well as from ourselves. We have at least proved that we will not take advantage of her in her distress and undertake to impose upon her an order and government of our own choosing. Liberty is often a fierce and intratable thing, to which no bounds can be set and to which no bounds of a few months' duration could ever be set to be set.

The program to be laid before you contemplates the construction within five years of ten battleships, six battle cruisers, ten scout cruisers, thirty destroyers, fifteen fleet submarines, eighty-five coast submarines, four gun boats, one hospital ship, two ammunition ships, two fuel oil ships and one repair ship. It is proposed that this number shall be the first year provide for the construction of two battleships, three battle cruisers, fifteen fleet submarines, eight destroyers, five fleet submarines, twenty-five coast submarines, two gun boats and one hospital ship; the second year two battleships, one scout cruiser, ten destroyers, one fleet submarine, fifteen coast submarine, one ammunition ship and one fuel oil ship; and the fifth year two battleships, one fleet submarine, two destroyers, five fleet submarines, fifteen coast submarine, one ammunition ship, one fuel oil ship, one repair ship.

It is with these ideals in mind that the plans of the department of war for more adequate national defense were conceived which will be laid before you, and which I urge you to examine and put into effect as soon as they can be properly scrutinized and discussed. They seem to me the essential first steps, and they seem to me for the present sufficient.

This contemplates an increase of the standing force of the regular army from its present strength of 5,023 officers and 102,285 enlisted men, or a increase to a strength of 51,300 officers and 238,507 enlisted men, or 11,843 all told, all service rank and the like by the addition of fifty-two companies of coast artillery, fifteen companies of engineers, ten regiments of infantry, four regiments of field artillery and four corps of cavalry, besides 750 officers required for a great variety of extra services, especially the important duty of training the citizen force of which I shall presently speak. The non-commissioned officers for service in the regular army, recruiting and the like and the necessary quota of enlisted men for the quartermaster corps, the hospital corps, the ordnance department and other similar auxiliary services. These

department, an effective navy consisting of 27 battleships of the first line, 6 battle cruisers, 25 battleships of the second line, 10 armored cruisers, 12 scout cruisers, 5 first class destroyers, 3 second class destroyers, 10 third class destroyers, 108 destroyers, 18 fleet submarines, 151 coast submarines, 6 monitors, 20 gunboats, 4 supply ships, 15 fuel ships, 4 transports, 3 tenders to torpedo vessels, 8 vessels of special types and two ammunition ships. This would be a navy fitted to our needs and worthy of our traditions.

But arms and instruments of war are only part of what has to be considered if we are to consider the supreme matter of national self sufficiency and security in all its aspects. There are other great matters which will be thrust upon our attention whether we will or not. There is, for example, a very pressing question of trade and shipping involved in this great problem of national adequacy. It is necessary for many weighty reasons of national efficiency and development that we should have a great merchant marine. The great merchant fleet we once used to make us rich, that great body of sturdy sailors who used to carry our flag into every sea, and who were the pride and often the backbone of the nation, have almost disappeared from existence by inexorable neglect and indifference and by a hopelessly blind and protracted policy of so-called economic protection. It is high time we repaired our mistake and resumed our commercial independence on the seas.

With a view to meeting these pressing necessities of our commerce and availing ourselves at the earliest possible moment of the present unparalleled opportunity of linking the two Americas together in bonds of mutual interest and service, an opportunity which may never return again if we miss it now, proposals will be made to the present congress for the purchase or construction of ships to be owned and directed by the government similar to those made to the last congress, but modified in some essential particulars. I recommend these measures to you for your prompt acceptance with the most confidence because every month that has elapsed since the former proposals were made has made the necessity for such action more and more manifestly imperative. That need was then forever. It is now acutely felt, and everywhere realized by those for whom trade is waiting, but who can find no conveyance for their goods. I am not so much interested in the particulars of the program as I am in taking immediate advantage of the great opportunity which awaits us if we will but act in this emergency. In this matter, as in all others, a spirit of frankness and frank finance should be adopted.

SHOULD AGREE ON POLICY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Recommend Early Adoption of Measures Giving Them Fuller Justice.

The president recommends the early adoption of bills for the alteration and reform of the government of the Philippines and for rendering fuller political justice to the people of Porto Rico, which were submitted to the Sixty-fourth congress. The president refers to the increased cost of carrying out the plans for the armed forces of the nation and to the fiscal problems confronting the government.

On the 1st of June last there was an available balance in the general fund of the treasury of \$161,165,78.

The total estimated receipts for the year 1916, on the assumption that the

emergency revenue measure passed by

the last congress will not be exceeded

beyond its present limit, will be \$222,432,000.

The total estimated receipts for the

present fiscal year, including twenty

cents on sugar, will be \$267,000,000.

The balance of funds available in the

general fund of the treasury at the

end of June last, will be \$75,865,500.

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The emergency revenue measure

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